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EXAMINER

POND, ROBERT M

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Applicant amended independent claims. All pending claims 2, 4, 36-51 and 63-74 were examined in this final office action necessitated by amendment. Claims 1, 3, 5-35, 52-62 and 75-94 were canceled.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The sole argument for independent claims pertains to synchronization. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant. Wilf teaches a secure transaction server communicates with a customer terminal and with billing functions, the transaction server communicating with the ISP server that provides billing functions. The secure transaction server sends the customer computer station a transaction verification form, HTML or Java, which informs the customer about the requested product or service, the price and payment terms for the transaction. The transaction verification form also included information which is not shown to the customer including the address of the ISP server which provides service to the customer. This information is obtained from the database or the table accessible to the secure transaction server by using the automatically revealed IP address of the customer computer station. The customer workstation and ISP interact one-to-one. ISP records the transaction

details including the customer's name, current date and time, the price of the product or service and payment terms. The ISP then connects to the secure transaction server and communicates customer response. See col. 7, line 46-col. 8, line 41. This is sufficient disclosure by Wilf to impart synchronization between independent entities and processes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 36-41, 43-48, 50, 51, 63-68, 70 and 74 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wilf (US 5,899,980).

Wilf teaches all the limitations of claims 36-41, 43-48, 51, 63-68 and 74. For example, Wilf discloses an electronic settlement system for setting up a transaction through a communication network (see at least abstract; Fig. 1; col. 1-col. 7). Wilf further discloses:

- a paying terminal which is operated for participating in the transaction, said paying terminal being connectable to the communication network and including an information indicating unit, said paying terminal including an input unit for inputting information regarding the transaction; customer terminal transfers point-of-sale computer ID and transaction details to a secure transaction server (see at least Fig. 4 (110); col. 7, lines 46-57).

- a virtual register which is connectable to the communication network for participating in the transaction with said paying terminal; Inherent in Wilf are the structures necessary to permit generating the virtual register. For example, the ISP server providing billing functions for the customer transaction is managing and storing the customer data. The ISP computer is connectable to the communication network for participating in the transaction and manages the billing of a customer in accordance with the purchase of goods from various merchants (see at least col. 6, lines 56-64). Also note: disclosed that a telephone company could provide billing functions as an alternative to the ISP.
- a synchronizing server communicating with said paying terminal secure transaction server communicates with customer terminal and with said virtual register, transaction server communicates with ISP server that provides billing functions said synchronizing server setting up link information including transaction ID information in association with said virtual register and transmits said link information to said paying terminal upon receipt by said synchronizing server of the information regarding the transaction transmitted by said paying terminal, secure transaction server sends the customer computer station a transaction verification form, HTML or Java, which informs the customer about the requested product or service, the price and payment terms for the transaction. The transaction verification form also included information which is not shown to the

customer including the address of the ISP server which provides service to the customer. This information is obtained from the database or the table accessible to the secure transaction server by using the automatically revealed IP address of the customer computer station and said synchronizing server establishing a synchronization of communication between said paying terminal and said virtual register one-to-one upon receipt of both the same transaction ID information and a signal in response to the link information from said paying terminal. customer workstation and ISP interact one-to-one. ISP records the transaction details including the customer's name, current date and time, the price of the product or service and payment terms. The ISP then connects to the secure transaction server and communicates customer response. See col. 7, line 46-col. 8, line 41.

- Regarding claim 37 and others, further comprising a cashier server connected to said synchronizing server via the communicating network, said cashier server generating said virtual register. Please note: the ISP server providing billing functions for the customer transaction which is serving the function of the Applicant's cashier server. wherein said personal and virtual terminals send and receive messages via the synchronizing server during synchronization. customer workstation and ISP interact one-to-one. ISP records the transaction details including the customer's name, current date and time, the price of the product or

service and payment terms. The ISP then connects to the secure transaction server and communicates customer response. See col. 7, line 46-col. 8, line 41.

- Regarding claim 38 and others, wherein said paying terminal comprises at least one of a cellular phone, a PDA and a notebook type personal computer; customer workstation is a computer of which a notebook type personal computer would suffice, and said information regarding the transaction comprises paying terminal information including at least one of a telephone number and an e-mail address of said paying terminal. secure transaction server uses customer's email address to communicate messages (see at least col.10, lines 28-30; col. 12, lines 46-52). Please note: customer's email address is information regarding the transaction.
- Regarding claim 39 and others, further comprising:
 - a paying terminal database for storing paying terminal information including at least one of a telephone number and an e-mail address of the paying terminal; a previously noted, the customer's email address is stored and used to facilitate transactions.
 - and a virtual register database for storing virtual register information including at least information for identifying said virtual register, which information being indicated on said indicating unit of said paying terminal; database stores table of ISP providing virtual register functions (see at least col. 7, line 62-col. 8, line 5).

- wherein said synchronizing server identifies said paying terminal based on the paying terminal information transmitted from said paying terminal and the paying terminal information stored in said paying terminal database and transmits the virtual register information as a part of the link information to said paying terminal. URL information of ISP providing billing services is transmitted to the customer terminal (see at least col. 7, line 62-col. 8, line 5).
- Regarding claim 40 and others, wherein said synchronizing server transmits the virtual register information with an internet address to said paying terminal. secure transaction server transmits the ISP's internet address (see at least col. 7, line 62-col. 8, line 5); Internet (see at least Fig. 1 (10)).
- Regarding claim 41 and others, wherein the virtual register information includes information relating to an item for the transaction. As previously noted above (see at least col. 8, lines 32-36).
- Regarding claim 50 and others, first communicating unit connected to the virtual register via a first communication network, and a second communicating unit connected to the paying terminal via a second communicating network. Paying terminal communicates with secure transaction server via a second network (comprises ISP network plus network to secure transaction sever). ISP communicates with secure

transaction server via a first network using only the network to the secure transaction server.

2. Claims 42, 49, 69, 71 and 73 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilf (US 5,899,980) in view PRN (PTO-892, Item: U).

Wilf teaches all the above as noted under the 102(e) rejection and further teaches i) Internet vendors advertising products and services to solicit orders from buyers, and ii) transaction detail including the point-of-sale computer station ID. Although Wilf does not mention wherein the information regarding the transaction includes a number listed in at least one of a mail order advertisement and a catalog distributed to a user in advance, PRN on the other hand teaches Discopro.com delivering discounts and promotions to its subscribers via cell phones and alphanumeric pagers. PRN teaches Discopro.com customers redeeming a discount or promotion by referencing a promotional code (provided by Discopro.com) while purchasing the item on line, via the phone or in person just as they would with a paper coupon (U: see at least pages 1-3). Therefore it would have been obvious to modify Wilf to receive a promotional code in advance of a purchase and redeeming online, via the phone or in person just as they would with a paper coupon as taught by PRN because a person of ordinary skill has good reason to pursue known options within his or her technical grasp. If this leads to the anticipated success, it is likely the product is not of innovation but of ordinary skill and common sense.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Pond whose telephone number is 571-272-6760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert M. Pond/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625
March 27, 2008